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*Les Hauts Salaires aux États-Unis.* ÉMILE WAXWEILER. Paris: Bibliothèque Gilon, 1895. 12 mo. pp. 108.

THE first part of this volume consists of a sketch of the scope and nature of the industries of this country, special attention being paid to the great degree of division and specialization of labor on both the mechanical and the executive side of our large concerns. The American genius for organization is dwelt upon, and its effects noted in both capital and labor. A few facts are given concerning the labor movement and labor legislation. All this is an old story to every observant American, whether he has approached the subject from the student's point of view or from that of the practical business man. In the economic discussion which follows, figures bearing on the question, furnished by Carroll D. Wright, E. R. L. Gould, and other American statisticians, are freely used.

The whole book is a compliment to the achievements of the American business man and to the American student of the wages question. It is in no way original, and it deals with matter which is more fully presented in American treatises. The chief interest of such a book is an indication of what will be the attitude in the future of well-informed Europeans towards American institutions. It need not consume the time of the American student of economics.

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HENRY K. WHITE.

*Strikes and Social Problems.* By J. SHIELD NICHOLSON. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1896. 12mo. pp. viii+238.

PROFESSOR NICHOLSON's book is a collection of essays and addresses of various lengths, upon subjects not very closely connected. The twelve occasional pieces which go to make up the volume are quite as diverse in quality as they are in subject-matter. Some of them possess much more than ordinary merit, while there are others which can hardly be considered anything but products of economic dilettantism. The first six of the studies—comprising a good half of the book—"treat specially and directly of the conflicts between Labor and Capital and of the interests of both in conciliation." Three of these deal more particularly with strikes, combinations, and other modes of demonstrating the exceeding power and wisdom of organized "labor." The remaining three are devoted to some more general aspects of the relations between labor and capital.

It cannot be denied that this first half of Professor Nicholson's book is unsatisfactory, even when the fact that the studies which compose it are not labored investigations is considered. The three essays or addresses devoted to strikes and combinations are the weakest part of the book. A constant tendency to look with leniency upon the illegal and criminal acts of trades unions seems to pervade and vitiate the whole of Professor Nicholson's thought on this subject. Although he recognizes the ruinous results of the course pursued by most trades-unionist bodies, he nevertheless displays the unfortunate theoretical bias which commonly arises from a lack of appreciation of the real objects of such organizations of "Labor." It must, indeed, be admitted that Professor Nicholson is far more sane on the so-called labor question than are many others among present-day economic writers. But the time has come when it will no longer do to countenance, in the most unimportant detail, the acts and aims of the organized predatory bands which, under the name of trades-unions, have honeycombed our industrial system, and which are the more dangerous because they conceal their aspirations beneath a mask of assumed altruism, generosity and the old fallacy of the greatest good to the greatest number.

It must not be inferred from what has been said that Professor Nicholson entirely overlooks the importance of these fundamental principles. In the second general division of his work, which includes the four studies VII.-X., he has shown a thorough appreciation of the value of industrial freedom. His Plea for Industrial Liberty, and Reaction in Favor of the Classical Political Economy, are exceptionally valuable and instructive. In the latter address he demonstrates the present crying need of sounder ideas in economics and describes the movement to attain them. The eleventh and twelfth studies are unconnected with the main subjects of the book, and are too slight to require mention. As a whole the volume is of very uneven merit but it contains some thoughts which make it well worth reading.

H. PARKER WILLIS.

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*The Problem of the Aged Poor.* By GEOFFREY DRAGE. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1895. 8vo. pp. xvii + 375.

INVESTIGATIONS made by Mr. Charles Booth and by Mr. Ritchie in 1892-3, with regard to the conditions of the aged poor, disclosed the startling fact that of the 1,372,422 persons of 65 years and upward